

Getting the Lead Out



Liz Siepker
Chemistry, Biology & Earth Science
Crestwood High School
Winneshiek County Conservation

Part I: Overview of Business

- The purpose of the Winneshiek County Conservation Board (WCCB) is to provide the public with wide-ranging opportunities for quality outdoor recreation while wisely managing our natural resources and encouraging land stewardship through natural history and environmental education programming.

Part II: Job Specifics

- Educate the public about conservation topics.
- Create educational panels, handouts, and programs.
- Host workshops, clinics, and camps.

Part III: Introduce the Problem

- Educate and explain to people what lead poisoning is and why is it important.
- Focus on eagles and lead poisoning. Why is this happening?
- Focus audience is outdoor recreationists.
- Offer ways for the public to help out.

Part IV: Background

- Know that lead is a toxic metal.
- Know how to conduct research to find out more information about the problem.
- How big of a problem is it in the county?
- How is the public informed of this topic?
- Focus can be on human and wildlife interactions or a specific species?

Part V: Business Solution

- Education campaigns are continuously evolving so different media will be used to continue to educate the public.
- The solution for lead poisoning was two display boards to be used at the local county fair with handouts provided.
- Pictures of animals with lead poisoning were presented on a screen as well as pictures of lead fragmentation in venison meat packages.

Part VI: Student Solutions

- Solutions to the problem of lead poisoning are difficult because it depends on consumer/recreationists product selections.
- Education is key-students can research the best way to deliver the message to encourage people to consider other non-toxic options.
- Students could pick a species of interest (from list of affected species) and research the effects of lead on the organisms.